

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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UNCLAS LISBON 1862

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BGEN, PO

SUBJ: MAJOR PROJECTS: NEW LISBON AIRPORT STATUS

REPORT:

REF: LISBON 804; LISBON 1321

COMMERCE FOR BIC/MEPD

1. ACCORDING TO DIRECTOR OF NEW LISBON AIRPORT PLANNING CABINET (GNAL), PLANNING AND EXECUTION OF PROJECT ARE TEMPORARILY HALTED DUE TO CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT FOLLOWING APRIL 25 COUP BY PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES. GNAL DIRDTOR, COL. JOAQUIM RODRIGUES DE OLIVEIRA JR., BELIEVES THAT GNAL WILL HAVE BETTER CONTROL OVER PLANNING FUNCTION WITH THE DEPARTURE FROM POWER OF RUI SANCHES, FORMER MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS, WHO HAD CLOSELY SUPERVISED NEW AIRPORT PROJECT.

2. COL. OLIVEIRA STATED THAT GNAL'S FIRST RECOMMENDATION TO NEW PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER, ONCE HE IS APPOINTED BY PROVISIONAL GOP, WILL BE TO ABANDON THE TURN-KEY CONCEPT FOR DESIGN-CONSTRUCTION-FINANCING OF NEW AIRPORT. GNAL HOPES TO GO DIRECTLY TO A LIMITED PUBLIC TENDER FOR
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A DESIGN CONTRACT, FOLLOWED BY SEPARATE TENDERS FOR

CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT. FINANCING WOULD BE ARRANGED AT EACH STEP BY EACH CONTRACTOR.

3. COMMENT: IT IS UNCLEAR YET WHETHER THE NEWLY CONSTITUTED GOP WILL ACCEPT THIS GNAL PROOPOSAL. BY JUNKING THE TURN-KEY APPROACH, GNAL FORFEITS ABOUT ONE YEAR OF WORK AND EXPENSE WHICH INCLUDED THE PRE-QUALIFICATION OF EIGHT SHORT LIST GROUPS WHICH WERE TO BE INVITED TO PREPARE TURN-KEY BIDS. WHILE THE U.S. INDUSTRY PRESENCE WAS STRONG AMONG THE EIGHT SHORT LIST GROUPS, WE BELIEVE THAT AMERICAN ENGINEERING FIRMS WOULD BE IN AN EQUALLY FAVORABLE POSITION WITH GNAL IF A LIMITED TENDER IS CALLED FOR SEPARATE DESIGN CONTRACT.

4. COMMERCE ACTION: SINCE GNAL HAS NOT YET MADE ITS RECOMMENDATION TO NEW GOP RE ABANDONMENT OF TURN-KEY APPROACH, WE REQUEST THAT MEPD WITHHOLD THIS LATEST INFORMATION FROM INDUSTRY SOURCES UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. WE WOULD EXPECT HOSTILE REACTION FROM THOSE GROUPS ON SHORT LIST WHICH WENT TO SO MUCH EXPENSE TO PREQUALIFY FOR TURN-KEY JOB AND WE DO NOT WANT TO STIMULATE HOSTILITY UNTIL SITUATION IS CLEARER.

5. SEPARATE ISSUE: PREQUALIFICATION FOR CONSULTANT TO GNAL: SEVEN GROUPS SUBMITTED PREQUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS PRIOR TO APRIL 30 DEADLINE, INCLUDING AT LEAST TWO WITH AMERICAN PARTNERS. AMERICAN FIRMS HNTB-HOWARD, NEEDLES, TAMMEN AND BERGENDORF, INTL. INC. OF BOSTON AND AMMONN & WHITNEY ENGINEERS OF NEW YORK ARE INVOLVED. GNAL HOPES TO SELECT TWO OR THREE GROUPS FOR SHORT LIST OF BIDDERS FOR CONSULTANT CONTRACT BY JULY 1, 1974. SCOTT

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